

MINUTES
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMISSION
5-19-2014

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Present: Jim Rosenbarger, Paul Ash, Mitch Rice, Stacey Williams

Staff: Vince Caristo- Planning
Scott Robinson - Planning
Laurel Waters - Public Works
Steve Cotter - Parks and Recreation
Rick Alexander - Engineering

Non Members: Greg Alexander
Sarah Ferten
Jim Williams
Jaclyn Ray

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim made a motion to approve minutes from April 21, 2014. Motion was seconded. Motion passed. Minutes from April 21, 2014 approved as submitted.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Alexander stated he thought the pedestrian access on Walnut and College was a major priority for the City. There needs to be a pedestrian crossing at 8th Street, 9th Street, and 14th Streets. Mr. Alexander stated these are not optional and knows there are almost 500 people living on everyone of those blocks.

Mr. Alexander further stated that the sidewalks he has had for his entire life are now closed. They were closed for Spring Hill Suites, they are closed where the Waffle House site is, closed north of Spring Hill Suites, and closed on both sides of the street on a regular basis. The sidewalks between 8th and 11th Street have been closed for almost an entire year.

Mitch Rice stated all intersections are crosswalks. He agreed there needs to be markings, but money is an issue. Mitch added there is also a problem at 4th Street.

Vince stated he realizes this is a frustration and will be discussed as an agenda item.

Jaclyn stated the Prospect Hill neighborhood has started a bicycle route committee to attempt to connect the east/west bike flow. Part of this will be going into a Local Motion Grant application. Mitch asked if she was talking about signage. Jaclyn stated 4th, 3rd

5-19-2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Minutes

and Howe are all being considered. She felt the neighborhood would love feedback. Mitch felt 4th Street would be the best. Jaclyn said it is being discussed but there is not a consensus yet.

Paul stated the apartments at Patterson Pointe want to use this neighborhood for a bike route. Paul also thought it would be nice if there was a way to cut through the cemetery.

Steve Cotter stated it has been proposed to the Parks Department.

Jim Rosenbarger thought it a good idea the neighborhood is looking into it.

Jim Williams asked if the Commission had an update on the traffic situation in Park Ridge East. Vince stated the Neighborhood Association came to the City with traffic calming concerns earlier this year. Data has been collected at 10 locations through out the neighborhood. There was a meeting to make sure everyone was on the same page. There is a clear speeding issue in and around the intersection of Morningside and Sheffield. Staff is working with the neighborhood on some solutions. Some ideas that came up for this year are to complete the sidewalk on Sheffield as part of the Council Sidewalk Committee project, and installing a traffic median similar to the one that exists at Smith and Morningside. The neighborhood is taking a closer look and will get back with staff. Vince added it was a productive meeting and things are moving forward to address concerns. There is an understanding that once any treatments are in that the City will study it again to make sure that whatever is done is addressing the problem. This will be placed on another agenda in the future.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jim thanked the staff for the efforts over bike week and month. It was enjoyable and he appreciated the effort.

Paul added it was a good party and enjoyed seeing the new trailer and equipment.

V. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Local Motion Grant and BBC Grant

Scott reminded everyone this is the inaugural year for this grant. There have been six letter of intent submitted from the following:

The Buskirk Chumley Theater - a day of film and activity around cycling.

The Mountain Folk, LLC - they are still finalizing their idea of a scavenger hunt

Cardinal Spirits - a new distillery in town who wants to do a bike share program with the hotels

Middle Way House is trying to do a bike library

A partnership between several community members and The Bicycle Project.

Prospect Hill to look at the east/west bicycle connectivity through the neighborhood.

5-19-2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Minutes

At the next meeting applicants will come and do a five to ten minute presentation with question and answer opportunity after. In July applications are due and then recommendations can be made.

Jim asked that the preliminary list be sent to the members.

The timeline is as follows: Presentation in June, applications submitted in July, and award decision in August.

b. Bike's Month

Vince thanked the members that helped out last week with Bike to Work Day. There were 14 refueling stations throughout the City. The party at Bloomingfoods was great, and is a good partnership. Vince updated on past events and the events still coming up.

c. Tent and Trailer

Mitch stated the new Tent and Trailer have been to events already and its nice having the equipment. The tent and trailer is available to any Commission member for any event they are involved in. The equipment consists of a trailer that can take all the tabling supplies attached to a City bike. There is a large tent, table, and materials in plastic bins. There is also, at Jim's request, a more portable unit with a small fold up table and chair, should anyone want to do something on a smaller scale.

d. Yard Sign Project

Vince stated he has received financial approval to order the signs. Vince added he met with his Director on the guidelines on where signs can be placed. Vince will bring information about sign placement rules. Once the signs are ordered information will be put on the Bike & Ped Commission website, with the hopes of having an on-line order form.

Jim Williams asked who would coordinate this program. There will be 30 signs that can be checked out and that would go through City Hall.

e. Bloomington/Monroe County Bike Map

Vince stated the map is in the final stages.

Mitch asked if the Commission would have one last look at it. Vince said he is waiting on the final draft. Vince asked if the Commission would like to take another look at it, but the response was to just get it out. Jim Rosenbarger felt the Commission has had a good opportunity for comment. Vince hopes to have the final draft soon, and 4,000 copies will be printed.

f. June 7th National Trails Day

5-19-2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Minutes

Steve Cotter reported there will be an opportunity for some volunteer trail work at Griffy from 9 to noon on June 7th. A section of hiking trail will be re-routed. Steve invited everyone to come and lunch will be provided. Steve further stated Parks is working with an event planning class at Indiana University.

g. Civil Streets Report

Vince stated there is a report from the Bloomington Police on their targeted enforcement they did the first and second week of April as part of the Civil Streets Campaign. Vince asked for suggestions the Commission would like to convey for the fall enforcement. Vince stated it seemed that the police focused their enforcement on cyclists. Vince went over the highlights from the report. Of special note, there were 83 warnings given, and no citations. The police did focus on the area they were asked to which included Kirkwood, the boundaries of IU, and the Courthouse Square. Vince stated he hopes the police will try and find a way to address unsafe behaviors by motorists. Jim Rosenbarger agreed and was concerned for the vulnerable user, and still liked the idea of an unmarked pedestrian police person to check on cross walk compliance and turning movements.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Habitat for Humanity Final Plan (continued until June)

Vince stated this will be built near Diamond Street and the B-line Trail. Vince reported this was continued until the June 3rd Plan Commission meeting. Staff has confirmation that the roadway will ramp up to meet the trail grade. Staff is still meeting internally about signage. The proposed design was to have a street stop sign. The trail crossing will have a matching profile with the rest of the B-line crossings. The Parks Department needs to know there is justification in making this crosswalk different than the other crossings on the B-Line.

Jim Rosenbarger felt the warrants should apply just as in streets, where the high volume street gets to go and the low volume street stops. Vince stated there is a user count of the B-Line and feels it may come to this.

Mitch asked how many homes are being planned. Vince thought it was 30 or 40 homes. Mitch stated this is a cul-de-sac with no through traffic. Jim felt it would be easy to estimate approximately how many cars.

Vince did remind the Commission that this has been brought up before with changing the stop sign on the B-Line at the Convention Center.

Vince concluded by stating if it looks like there should be a recommendation from Bike & Ped to the Planning Commission he will send out an e-mail.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2014 Small Maintenance and Project List

Vince said he would like to put this on the agenda again so there can be continued discussion about how to work with the City get a better handle on some of the small maintenance type upgrades.

Vince and Scott thought it would be helpful to transmit the list to staff once or twice a year and collect items in the meantime. Vince also suggested there be an online way to add to the list. Once or twice a year the Commission could formally transmit this list to the appropriate City staff.

Jim Rosenbarger felt the small needs is good and there was a good response last year. Jim Rosenbarger also felt there needs to be a breakdown of small needs, medium needs, and long range projects. His example was 2nd Street by Patterson on the north side, there is a linkage, and it will be expensive but seems that should be put on a long term list. Jim Rosenbarger doesn't understand why it should take years to get sharrows signs or directional signs to the underpass. Jim concluded by saying he does like the idea of going public with the list, as did Mitch.

Vince stated the Planning Department is interested in making sure what long term needs are for bike and pedestrian interests.

Jim Rosenbarger stated he has had a idea for a very long time, and described a project he would like to see at Atwater and Woodlawn. Discussion followed.

b. 2014 Bikeways Project Status

Vince stated the City is really understaffed right now in Public Works, Engineering, and Planning Departments. Justin Stuehrenberg has resigned from the Planning Department as the Transportation and Traffic Engineer. There are many larger transportation projects under contract that have started and staff is trying to keep up with those. The Bikeways Project for 2014 is not one of those. The designs have been started and not completed, and nothing for construction is under contract. Staff will do its best to stay on schedule.

c. Closed Sidewalks

Vince stated he has heard consistent concerns over sidewalks that are closed during private construction. There have been many of them over the years, and this year the construction season is just starting. Vince introduced Rick Alexander from the Engineering Department to talk about the sidewalk closing process.

Rick stated this is a difficult issue. He explained that he has to try and balance the needs of everybody which is not easy, and actually impossible. The developers have to load a site with millions of dollars worth of materials. Every site is different. Things can happen during the course of construction that he is not aware of because he cannot be there all the time, every day. Sometimes things get closed without his knowledge, and subs do things without his knowledge. He gave an example where on a Saturday he

received a call that a lane had been closed and a crane showed up and he was not aware that was going to happen. Rick stated he is open to suggestions. Rick stated he did not feel it a good idea to load a building site over pedestrian or bike facilities, and he abides by OSHA's suggestion that pedestrians and bikes are moved to the other side of the road where possible. The City's definition of "where possible" is where there are facilities on the other side.

Rick explained the projects going on now and their uniqueness. When a site has to be loaded, and there is a facility on the other side, the other side will be used, rather than load a building site over bikes and pedestrians. Vince asked if this was an OSHA standard. Rick stated it is. Rick added he is sensitive to these issues, and people with impairments are going to have the most difficulty.

Rick explained big projects start with the Planning Commission where they present the development proposal, and then it might go to the City Council. During all these discussions very little comes up about how to get the building there. The Planning Commission envisions the final product, Engineering has to figure out how to get it there and keep everything else flowing. The Contractor or builder is charged with getting the material on the site. Engineering has a process where they have to go to the Board of Public Works and request to use the right of way. They enter into a Hold Harmless Agreement and a Memo of Understanding is prepared. These documents are prepared by the Legal Department, signed by the Mayor and signed by the Board of Public Works. There is an opportunity for public comment at the Board of Public Works meeting if anyone has any concerns.

There was a lengthy discussion about this issue. In conclusion:

Mitch felt more and better signs are needed, detour signs, giving an alternative route. Rick agreed and took it further with adding who is building the project and a phone number should be added.

Jim Rosenbarger would like to see a little more analysis of the specifics, such as looking at the locations and how they are used by pedestrians and bikes. Each location is different. If there were as many pedestrians as cars, then it would be approached differently. Sometimes there are not the pedestrian number to take expensive remedies to construction. On the other hand, a city is being built and the density is going up, so at some point more effort will be important to maintain pedestrian flow.

Rick agreed, and added when those buildings are done there are going to be nice pedestrian facilities there, much better than before. The hard part is getting them there.

Scott Robinson asked if it would be helpful when cases are brought forward to the group that there are some suggestions made about sidewalk closures. Rick stated he welcomes any suggestions.

Vince suggested this issue be looked at during a work session and organize some suggestions.

d. Development Review: Highpoint at 11th Street and Walnut Street

Vince explained there are three buildings here currently. The proposal is to save the southern most building and rebuild the rest of the site. This will be 82 units with 84 bedrooms. They are proposing some covered bike parking underneath the stairway. There will be more parking than the maximum allows, and are looking at a variance for that, and waivers for set backs. Paul asked about parking, and Vince stated there will be 24 spaces for bikes.

e. Development Review: AJ Capital at Kirkwood Avenue & Lincoln Street

Vince briefly explained his project is at the Old National Bank site. There will be 140 rooms and six stories. It will include a structure parking garage with 70 parking spaces.

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The meeting ended because of another group needing the room. This topic was not discussed.

Next meeting Monday, June 16, 2014 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Hooker Room
Monroe County Active Transportation Board - Monday, May 19, 2014, 15:00 - 6:30 p.m.
501 N. Morton Street, Suite 106A, North Showers Building